

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01444 091536Z

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR KEKKONEN STATE VISIT:

PAAVO RANTANEN

REF: STATE 165299

1. FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS DRAWN FROM FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S 1974 "CALENDAR" WITH SOME ADDITIONS BY THE EMBASSY.

A. PAAVO ILMARI RANTANEN WAS BORN IN JYVASKYLA ON FEBRUARY 2, 1928. HE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN 1953 AND RECEIVED THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN POLITICAL SCIENCE IN 1958. HIS MILITARY RANK IS LIEUTENANT (1966). HE IS MARRIED TO RITVA MIRJAM LEHTINEN, BORN IN 1936. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN: HEIKKI OLAVI (1956), VIRVE SINIKKA (1959) AND PETRI JUHANI (1967).

B. RANTANEN BECAME A CIVIL SERVICE TRAINEE ON JUNE 4, 1958, AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE ON DECEMBER 11, 1959.

C. RANTANEN BEGAN HIS EMPLOYMENT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JULY 1, 1958. HE BECAME AN ASSISTANT IN THE MINISTRY IN FEBRUARY 1, 1960, AND SERVED AT THE SAME RANK IN THE EMBASSY IN VIENNA FROM OCTOBER 1, 1960 AND AT THE EMBASSY IN BELGRADE FROM MAY 1, 1962.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO SECOND SECRETARY OF EMBASSY IN
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BELGRADE ON FEBRUARY 1, 1963. HE RETURNED TO THE

FOREIGN MINISTRY AS SENIOUR WAGE CLASS SECTION SECRETARY ON JUNE 1, 1965. HE WAS NEXT ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY IN PARIS AS A SECOND SECRETARY ON JUNE 1, 1967 AND WAS PROMOTED TO FIRST SECRETARY THERE ON FEBRUARY 1, 1969. AFTER ANOTHER STINT AS A SECTION CHIEF IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BEGINNING JUNE 1, 1969, RANTANEN WAS ASSIGNED AS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 1, 1971. FROM SEPTEMBER 1973 TO THE SUMMER OF 1974 RANTANEN SERVED AS A COUNSELOR AT THE SPECIAL MISSION TO THE CSCE IN GENEVA WHERE HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR "BASKET II" (ECONOMIC) ISSUES. RANTANEN AGAIN RETURNED TO HELSINKI AS SPECIAL COUNSELOR (THIRD RANKING) IN THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON AUGUST 1, 1974. SINCE EARLY 1976 HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT (WITH THE PERSONAL RANK OF AMBASSADOR).

D. RANTANEN SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, SWEDISH AND FINNISH.

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2. RANTANEN HAS RECENTLY RISEN VERY RAPIDLY IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE AND THIS CAN PROBABLY BE ASCRIBED LARGELY TO HIS PERFORMANCE IN THE CSCE NEGOTIATIONS. HE IS QUITE SENSITIVE ABOUT RANK AND PROUD OF HIS AMBASSADORIAL TITLE. HE HAS BEEN HELPFUL AND FRIENDLY IN HIS RELATIVELY LIMITED DEALINGS WITH THE EMBASSY DURING HIS CURRENT TOUR IN HELSINKI. HE WAS A MOST ATTENTIVE AND CONSCIENTIOUS LIAISON OFFICER DURING THE VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL FOR THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCES OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN LAST SEPTEMBER. HE IS THOROUGH AND PRECISE AND HANDLES ENGLISH WELL.
AUSTAD

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